

PATENT

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 4, 8-12 and 14-20 were pending and considered. All claims stand rejected. In response, claim 11 has been cancelled, and claims 1, 12, 14 and 19 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4, 8-10, 12 and 14-20 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 12 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 297 022 78 (Chang et al.) in view of EP 982 454 (Pryce-Hall). Claims 10, 11 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al. in view of Pryce-Hall, and further in view of JP 11270212 (Sasaki). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the cited references, claims 1, 12 and 19 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. More specifically, claims 1, 12 and 19 have been amended to recite that the follower is configured to be freely movable within a slot in the drawer from one end of the slot to an opposite end of the slot, and a portal in the latch or track component is configured to receive the follower regardless of the position of the follower within the slot as the drawer is inserted into the pocket. Contrary to the claimed invention, Chang et al., provide a positioning bar (23) that pivots with rocker arm (21) of the locking bar (2). Pryce-Hall and Sasaki fail to solve the deficiency of Chang et al. For example, Pryce-Hall provides a biased detent pin (2) as compared to the freely movable follower of the claimed invention, and an open mouth (11) of the track that is not configured to receive the pin regardless of the position of the pin.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 12 and 19 are patentable over the proposed combination of the cited references. Moreover, the remaining claims depend from one of claims 1, 12 and 19, and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

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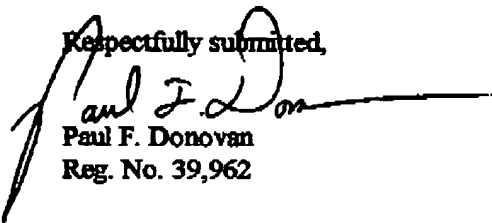
No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the remaining pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any issues that can be expeditiously handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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